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FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: Rep. Gary Hebl, (608) 266-7678

HEBL STANDS AGAINST GOP EFFORT TO OPEN STATE TO CORRUPTION

(MADISON) – Rep. Gary Hebl (D-Sun Prairie) today decried Republican efforts to shield politicians from accountability and scrutiny. This week, Assembly Republicans passed bills to:

- Shield politicians from John Doe corruption investigations. Hebl voted against this bill.
- Dismantle and politicize the Government Accountability Board, Wisconsin's nonpartisan political watchdog. Hebl voted against this bill.
- Double campaign donation levels for state candidates and open the floodgates for corporate campaign cash in our state. Given a substantial financial interest to his campaign committee and thus affecting his future as a legislator, Hebl along with every other Assembly Democrat recused himself from voting on this bill.

"Taken independently, these proposals seem like bad governance," Hebl said. "But considered together, we see a clear pattern of corruption and an attempt to make it easier to cover up corruption, fraud, and abuse."

Hebl said that this corruption package shows that Republican leaders are focused on keeping their own jobs, not on helping the people of Wisconsin.

"As legislators, we should be working to make life better for our constituents," Hebl said. "We should be focusing our efforts on helping others. I guarantee that no constituent contacted their legislator to say, 'You know what this state needs? MORE money in politics!"

"Each legislator in Wisconsin swore an oath to faithfully discharge the duties of their office to the best of their abilities," Hebl said, "I don't know how Republican supporters of this corruption package can look themselves in the mirror and honestly say they are honoring their oath with these votes – votes only meant to help the majority party stay in the majority."

"Republican members of the Assembly sent a loud and clear message this week: 'Wisconsin is Open for Corruption.'"